

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The office action of April 22, 2004 has been carefully reviewed and these remarks are responsive thereto. Reconsideration and allowance of the instant application are respectfully requested. Claims 1-23 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and new claims 24-29 have been added.

Preliminarily, applicants note that the declaration filed for the instant application does not include a claim for priority under 35 U.S.C. § 120 to U.S. application serial no. 09/159,522 filed September 23, 1998. However, the application as filed specifically states in the Cross-Reference to Related Application section on page 1 that "This application is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/159,522 entitled 'Solid-State Memory Device that Emulates a Known Storage Device,' which was filed on September 23, 1998, the specification and drawings of which are incorporated herein by reference in their entirety." In view of the priority claim in the specification, applicants believe that a proper priority claim has been made pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 120 and that no substitute declaration is required. If the Examiner determines otherwise, applicants in response to an indication of the same will submit a substitute declaration.

~~The Abstract of the Disclosure stands objected to because it exceeds 150 words. A substitute Abstract of the Disclosure has been provided, and approval is respectfully requested.~~

Applicants have renumbered the labels associated with the IEEE 1394 Interface (formerly 140) and devices (formerly 150) as these labels were duplicative of ROM 140 and RAM 150. In addition, applicant has amended the specification to change the labeling as well. Also, applicants have amended the specification to add brief descriptions of S304 and S306 in Fig. 3. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(b) as being anticipated by U.S. patent 5,809,331 to Staats et al. ("Staats"). Claims 9-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Staats in view of U.S. patent no. 5,815,678 to Hoffman et al. ("Hoffman"). These rejections are deemed moot as these claims have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

New claims 24-29 are fully supported by the specification and believed allowable over the art of record. For example, independent claim 24 calls for automatically loading the device

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driver if either a device driver or a pointer to a device driver compatible with the operating system running on the computer is stored in the non-volatile memory; and prompting a user to manually load a device driver compatible with the operating system, if neither a device driver nor a pointer to a device driver compatible with the operating system running on the computer is stored in the non-volatile memory. None of the cited art teaches or suggests a method for loading a device driver for an IEEE 1394-enabled device to account for both if a device driver has a non-volatile memory storing a device driver or a pointer to a device driver compatible with the operating system running on the computer and if neither a device driver nor a pointer to a device driver compatible with the operating system running on the computer is stored in the non-volatile memory. For at least this reason, claims 24-26 are patentably distinct over the art of record. To the extent that claim 27 recites subject matter similar to claim 24, claims 27-29 are considered patentable over the art of record.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that no fee is required for this submission. If any fees are required or if an overpayment is made, the Commissioner is authorized to debit or credit our Deposit Account No. 19-0733, accordingly.

All rejections having been addressed, applicants respectfully submit that the instant application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully solicit prompt notification of the same.

Respectfully submitted,

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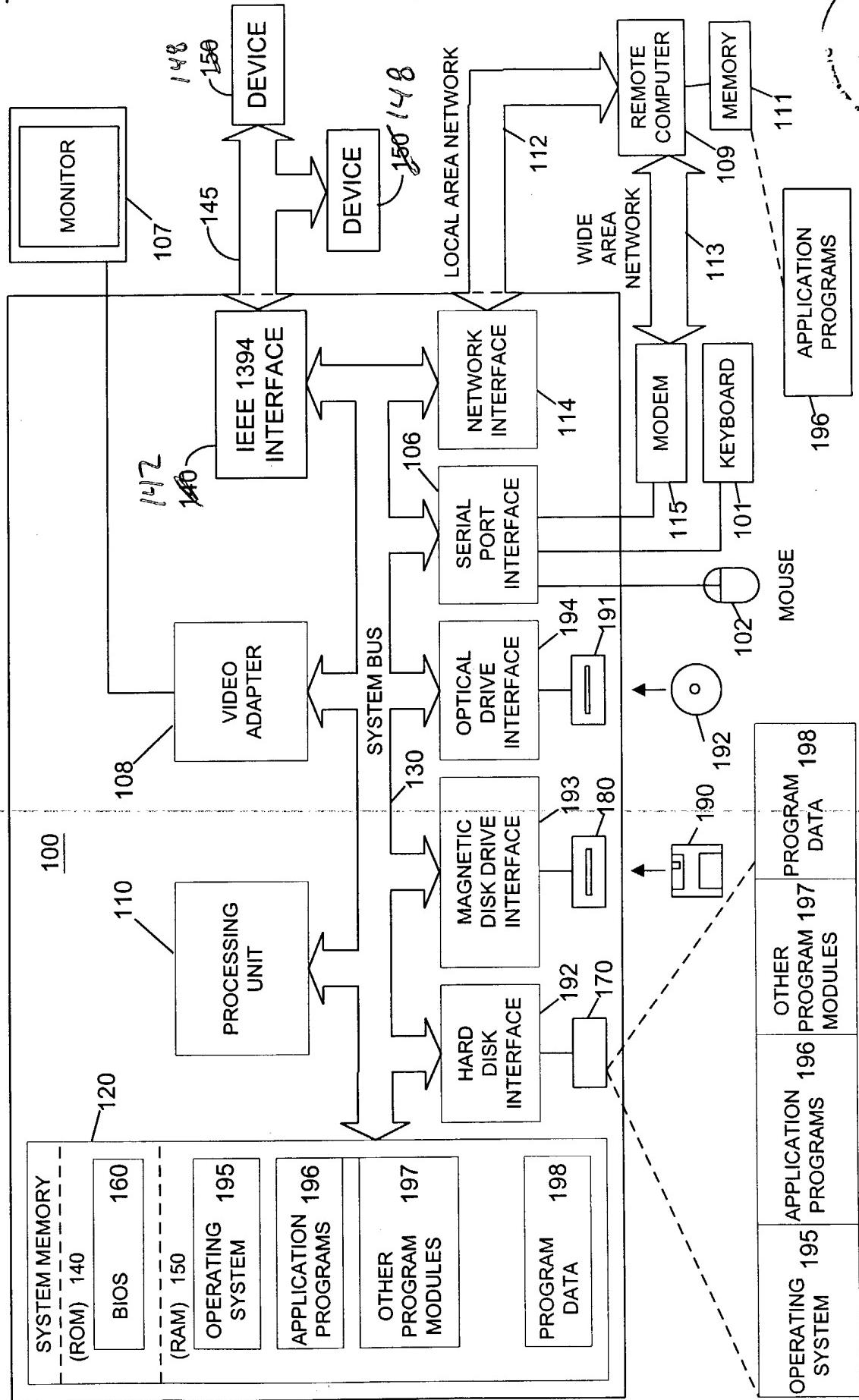


FIG. 1

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